

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05564 040358 Z

72

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 GAC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 IO-12 DPW-01 INRE-00

RSR-01 /141 W

----- 099618

P 040247 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5591

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5564

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR II DAILY SITREP, APRIL 3, 1973

FOL TEL SENT SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG APRIL 3, 1973 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE NHA TRANG 357

1. SUMMARY: ENEMY ACTION AGAIN CONCENTRATED IN ONLY THREE OF REGION'S 12 PROVINCES. BOX- SCORE ON ICCS INVESTIGATIONS IN NINH HOA SUB- REGION. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE READY TO GO PUBLIC IN BINH DINH.

2. MILITARY SITUATION: PATTERN SEEN FOR LAST SEVERAL DAYS CONCINUED THIS REPORTING PERIOD: 17 OF 18 ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE CONCENTRATED IN ONLY THREE PROVINCES, BINH DINH AND PLEIKU (SEVEN EACH) AND PHU YEN (THREE). EIGHT OF THE OTHER NINE PROVINCES REPORTED NO ENEMY ACTIVITY AT ALL. AGGREGATE CASUALTIES FROM THE 18 INCIDENTS WERE NOT HEAVY BUT WERE UNBALANCES IN ENEMY'S FAVOR: FRIENDLY, FOUR KIA, 21 WIA, AND ONE CIVILIAN KILLED BY COMMAND- DETONATED MINE; ENEMY, EIGHT KIA.

3. MOST INCIDENTS IN COSTAL BINH DINH AND PHU YEN CONSISTED OF HARASSMENT BY SMALL- ARMS FIRE. IN PLEIKU, HOWEVER, PATTERN HAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05564 040358 Z

BEEN NVA/ VC ABF ON RANGER OUTPOSTS IN THANH AN DISTRICT, POSSIBLY IN RESPONSE TO CONTINUED AGGRESSIVE PATROLLING BY RANGERS IN PLEI YIT AREA.

4. COMMENT: CURRENT COMMUNIST TACTIC, MOST EVIDENT IN COASTAL PROVINCES, INVOLVES SMALL- UNIT FORAYS INTO GVN- CONTROLLED AREAS TO LAUNCH ABF OR SHORT- DURATION GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST RVNAF POSITIONS.

THIS TACTIC SEEMS TO BE CAUSING ANGER AMONG PROVINCE CHIEFS AND TERRITORIAL- FORCE COMMANDERS. THEY SAY THAT EVER SINCE GVN WON BACK AREAS LOST TO COMMUNISTS DURING CEASE- FIRE OFFENSIVE THEY HAVE OBSERVED STRICTURES AGAINST OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AND HAVE NOT CONDUCTED PRE- EMPTIVE OPERATIONS (WHICH WERE STANDARD BEFORE CEASE- FIRE) INTO ENEMY BASE AREAS. THEY HAVE ALSO CUT BACK ON H& I FIRE AND ON AIR STRIKES. RESULT, THEY COMPLAIN, IS THAT NVA/ VC CAN STRIKE GVN POSITIONS ALMOST AT WILL AND THEN RETURN TO SAFETY OF BASE AREAS, WHERE THEY CAN REGROUP FOR FURTHER ATTACKS. WE HAVE HEARD SUCH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OR ATTRIBUTED TO MR II STAFF OFFICERS (COMPANY AND FIELD- GRADE) IN NHA TRANG AND TO SECTOR OFFICERS IN PHU YEN. ALSO, WE BELIEVE IT WAS FRUSTRATION OVER THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS THAT PROMPTED BINH THUAN PROVINCE CHIEF TO DECLARE HIS INTENT TO RETALIATE FOR FUTURE ENEMY ACTIONS OF ANY SIZE OR TYPE (NHA TRANG 344). END COMMENT.

5. HAPPY ENDING FOR KONTUM RF COMPANY THAT ABANDONED OUTPOST UNDER HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE ON MARCH 25: AFTER EIGHT DAYS OF TRICKLING IN TO RF BATTALION HQ, ENTIRE COMPANY AND ALL WEAPONS NOW SAFE AND ACCOUNTED FOR. CASUALTY TOTAL FOR COMPANY WAS ONLY FOUR WIA, WHICH POSES STILL- UNANSWERED QUESTION WHY OUTPOST WAS ABANDONED.

6. ICCS: NONH HOA SUB- REGIONAL TEAM IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE HAS COMPLETED TWO INVESTIGATIONS AND IS NEARING END OF FOUR OTHERS. OF TWO FINAL REPORTS SO FAR SUBMITTED TO PLEIKU, ONE WAS UNANIMOUS AND THE OTHER WAS SPLIT TWO AGAINST TWO. UNANIMOUS REPORT WAS LOWEST- COMMON- DENOMINATOR TYPE ON WHICH CANADIANS COMPROMISED (BEFORE ADOPTION OF NEW TACTICS), ALTHOUGH THEY REGARDED MORTAR ATTACK UNDER INVESTIGATION AS A CLEAR VC VIOLATION. REPORT WAS SO BLAND THAT REGIONAL HQ DID NOT FORWARD IT TO SAIGON.

7. SECOND COMPLETED INVESTIGATION INVOLVED ALLEGED VC CADRE WHO TRIGGERED A MINE DURING GROUND ATTACK OR HAMLET INCURSION ATTEMPT. IN THIS CASE POLDEL AND HUNGDEL REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BODY FOUND AT SCENE WAS THAT OF A VC, EVEN THOUGH BODY WAS GARBED IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05564 040358 Z

TRADITIONAL VC ATTIRE AND STILL CLUTCHED AN AK-47. CANDEL AND INDODEL PREPARED REPORT IDENTIFYING A VC VIOLATION, AND EAST EUROPEANS SUBMITTED DISSENTING REPORT.

8. POLES AND HUNGARIANS ON THIS TEAM (AS ON OTHERS) MAKE HEAVY USE OF IRRELEVANT OR HIGHLY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS; AIM SEEMS TO BE TO SOW CONFUSION AND DISCREDIT GVN WITNESSES. FOR EXAMPLE, EE' S IN ONE NINH HOA INVESTIGATION REPORTEDLY ASKED WITNESSES HOW MUCH TIME ELAPSED BETWEEN FIRING OF FIRST AND SECOND MORTAR ROUNDS AT ISSUE. FIRST GVN WITNESS ANSWERED, " FIVE MINUTES"; SECOND WITNESS SAID, " EIGHT MINUTES." EE' S THEREUPON CLAIMED TO CONCLUDE THAT ONE WITNESS WAS LYING AND THAT ENTIRE TESTIMONY OF BOTH SHOULD BE DISCOUNTED.

9. NINH HOA CANDEL BELIEVES EE REFUSAL TO GO ALONG WITH ANY CONDEMNATION OF PRG/ DRV IS PART OF CAREFULLY PRECONCEIVED PLAN TO INFLUENCE WORLD OPINION. ONLY REPORTS TO EMERGE FROM ICCS SYSTEM, IF IT OPERATES AS EE' S WANT IT TO, WILL BE THOSE CONDEMNING GVN. IN CANDEL VIEW, EE' S WANT TO MANIPULATE ICCS AND THROUGH IT WORLD PRESS IN CONJURING UP IMAGE OF GVN AS THE PRINCIPAL (IF NOT THE ONLY) VIOLATOR OF THE CEASE- FIRE.

10. IN TRUCE REGION IV (PHAN THIET), REGIONAL CANDEL CHIEF HAS COMPLAINED OF ROUGH TIME HE HAD AS CHAIRMAN LAST WEEK. MOST VITRIOLIC EXCHANGES CAME WHEN POLES AND HUNGARIANS DENOUNCED " UNAUTHORIZED" CANDEL/ INDODEL INVESTIGATION OF ABF ON LAM DONG TEA PLANTATION (SAIGON 5112, MARC
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON05564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730433/aaaahphl.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <23-Nov-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971125
Subject: MR II DAILY SITREP, APRIL 3, 1973 FOL TEL SENT SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG APRIL 3, 1973 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QUOTE NHA TRANG 357
TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS, MILI, PINT
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005